

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 179362  
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EUR/NE -W.NEWLIN  
L/EB - F.WILLIS(INFO)  
EUR/WNEWLIN

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R 150834Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EINV, EFIN, BE

SUBJECT: MERIDIAN ENTERPRISES, INC. COURT CASE

REFS: (A) STATE 123630 '77, (B) BRUSSELS 5758 '77,  
(C) STATE 134597 '77, (D) STATE 141296 '77,  
(E) BRUSSELS 6402 '77, (F) BRUSSELS 6888 '77,  
(G) STATE 252629 '77, (H) BRUSSELS 8087 '77

1. DURING 1977, EMBASSY INTERVENED WITH GOB AUTHORITIES  
CONCERNING BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS IN NIVELLES INVOLVING  
MERIDIAN ENTERPRISES, INC., A U.S. CORPORATION (REFTELS).

2. DEPARTMENT WAS CONTACTED 12 JULY BY MERIDIAN'S  
ATTORNEY, MR. JASON HALPERIN, WHO REQUESTED FURTHER  
EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IF POSSIBLE. HALPERIN SAID THAT HE  
HAD MET WITH DCM AND WITH COMMATT KELLER IN 1977 AT  
EARLIER STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND APPRECIATED EMBASSY  
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PAGE 02 STATE 179362

ASSISTANCE RENDERED AT THAT TIME.

3. ACCORDING TO HALPERIN, THE COURT OF APPEALS IN  
BRUSSELS DECIDED IN JUNE OF 1978 TO REVERSE THE LOWER  
BELGIAN COURT'S 1977 FINDING OF BANKRUPTCY AGAINST  
HIS CLIENT. HOWEVER, HALPERIN HAD ALSO BEEN INFORMED  
THAT PRIOR TO THE COURT OF APPEALS DECISION, THE RECEIVER



IN BANKRUPTCY HAD SOLD HIS CLIENT'S PROPERTY TOGETHER WITH GOODS HELD BY THE CLIENT ON CONSIGNMENT.

4. HALPERIN IS IN PROCESS OF RETAINING NEW BELGIAN COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE CLAIMS FOR ILLEGAL BANKRUPTCY SALE. HE WILL VISIT BRUSSELS DURING THE SECOND OR THIRD WEEK OF AUGUST TO DISCUSS FURTHER STEPS IN THE CASE WITH LOCAL COUNSEL. HE HOPES TO MEET WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS AT THAT TIME.

5. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, HALPERIN ASKED IF EMBASSY COULD ASSIST IN FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPARENT DISTRESS SALE OF MERIDIAN ENTERPRISE ASSETS BY BELGIAN BANKRUPTCY RECEIVER. HE WISHES TO KNOW DETAILS OF THE SALE, INCLUDING SPECIFICS OF PROPERTY SOLD; AMOUNT OF PROCEEDS; DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS, INCLUDING PRESENT LOCATION OF ANY PROCEEDS NOT DISBURSED TO CREDITORS; AND IDENTITY AND AUTHORITY OF THE PERSON WHO HELD THE SALE. HALPERIN'S PRIMARY INTEREST APPEARED TO BE TO IDENTIFY LOCATION AND AMOUNT OF ANY UNDISBURSED PROCEEDS OF THE SALE AS TARGET FOR FUTURE LEGAL ACTION.

6. REVIEW OF FILE AFTER CONVERSATION WITH HALPERIN (KELLER MEMORANDUM TO FILE OF 5/3/77) INDICATES THAT MERIDIAN ENTERPRISES AND FIRM'S BANKER (UNITED CALIFORNIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 179362

BANK) WERE IN DISPUTE PRIOR TO BANKRUPTCY. UNITED CALIFORNIA BANK MAY CONTINUE TO HAVE INTERESTS ADVERSE TO MERIDIAN'S. HALPERIN ABSENT FROM OFFICE FOR SEVERAL DAYS, SO THE FIRM'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE BANK CANNOT BE CLARIFIED NOW.

7. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION DESCRIBED BY HALPERIN, AND, INsofar AS THE EMBASSY DEEMS IT APPROPRIATE, TO SECURE AND REPORT THE INFORMATION HE HAS REQUESTED. HALPERIN WILL TELEPHONE DEPARTMENT ON JULY 19 FOR STATUS REPORT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COURTS, BANKRUPTCIES, BUSINESS FIRMS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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